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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 22, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable VINCE SNOWBARGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With grateful hearts we laud and praise every person who uses the talents and abilities You have given, O God, in ways that promote justice and serve the common good.

May Your good blessing, O God, be with the men and women who serve in this place and encourage them along the way. Give them vision to see the way of justice, give them grace to withstand all the pressures of the day, and give them patience and understanding to demonstrate the spirit of unity in their words and in their actions.

Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SANCHEZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1534, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act. Allowing property owners their day in court to defend their constitutional rights should be an easy vote. Why should property owners face enormously expensive hurdles in attempting to defend their Federal rights in court?

Some opponents of the bill are now standing as defenders of federalism and local decisionmaking. I hope their faith in State and local officials and their ability to make responsible decisions carries over to future discussions about block granting various Federal programs.

The fact is that H.R. 1534 does not impose any new limit on the ability of local governments to make decisions affecting zoning or any other land use controls. Those limits are imposed by the Constitution, not H.R. 1534. H.R. 1534 simply allows an individual who feels their fifth amendment rights have been violated the opportunity to have the facts of their case heard without fighting bureaucratic hurdles for years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1534.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT GIVE UP ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, just two weeks ago Speaker GINGRICH forced this House to pass a publicly-financed private school voucher program in the D.C. appropriations bill. This provision initially failed to pass the House, but the Speaker held the vote open and basically twisted his fellow Republicans' arms to change their vote.

In spite of this near failure, Speaker GINGRICH will take another step at cutting public education. He will bring to the floor this week another bill to pour taxpayer dollars into private and religious schools. It is called an education savings account, but would primarily benefit wealthy families.

Democrats have an alternative that would use the money for school construction bonds to help public schools that are in disrepair or in need of new construction.

Mr. Speaker, let us improve public education rather than siphon Federal dollars for private schools. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues: Do not give up on the public schools.

FOR EFFECTIVE EDUCATION PARENTS SHOULD BE IN CONTROL

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] and let me simply, gently correct the gentleman.

The proposed legislation we will bring to the floor of the House will help every American family by empowering every parent with the choice of how best to educate their child, whether in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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